(a) whether the Government have stopped the supply of edible oils, notably palmolein, for public distribution system (PDS) for the last four months, and

(b) if so, the measures taken to import edible oils to meet the demand of consumers through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES ANDPUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is exploring various possiblities for import of edible oils.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Centrally Sponsored Schemes into Rural Development Schemes

6649. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested the conversion of all centrally sponsored schemes into rural development schemes which are being implemented by the Union Government at village or panchayat level;

(b) if so, whether the planning Commission has also suggested that the funds earmarked for such schemes may be given to the state Governments concerned;

(c) whether the local institutions are in a position to implement such schemes; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to enable the local institutions to implement such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being reviewed in consultation with the Central ministries and State Governments in order to separate those which should be retained as Centrally Sponsored from other schemes which should be transfered to the state/local level.

(c) and (d). At present the rural development programmes are implemented through District Rural Development Agencies, and/or Zila parishads and panchayats at the local level. However it is propposed to strengthen the Panchyat Raj Bodies and for this purpose, a Constitution Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced shortly.

[*English*]

Industrialisation of Wardha district of Maharashtra

6650. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to states:

(a) whether Wardha District is one of the most industrially backward districts of Maharashtra;

(b) whether for its industrial development it was declared as a Gandhi District' around about 1987 and a sum of Rs. 144/- crores was sanctioned for the same; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the said 'gandhi District' Plan and the extent to which it has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J.KURIEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Government of Mharashtra is implementing a scheme called "wardhs District Plan" based on Gandhian